

Challenges for Navy Officer Personnel Management

Ann D. Parcell • Jonathon D. Mintz
with
David L. Reese

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Rodney", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

David Rodney, Director
Fleet and Operational Manpower Team
Resource Analysis Division

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14. ABSTRACT Last year, Navy leadership proposed changes to how carrier strike groups (CSGs) may be deployed and manned. A fleet response plan (FRP) was proposed in which CSGs would have two 7-month deployments in a 36-month cycle. The effect on officer retention was a concern. Using recent data from CSGs that had deployed twice in an FRP cycle (i.e., "double-pumped" CSGs), we compared the retention of conventional surface warfare officers (SWOs) and aviators to that of comparable officers in CSGs that were not double-pumped. We found that exposure to a double-pump deployment did not appear to affect retention. Recently, Navy leadership proposed another FRP schedule that includes one 8-month deployment in a 36-month cycle. To increase readiness, officers would be prohibited from rotating during the training and deployment phases of the FRP cycle. We found that when officers were "locked down", average officer crew experience in the CSG was about 33 percent higher by the end of the deployment phase compared to that achieved using a traditional, unconstrained rotation plan. Average crew experience in the lock down model was 25 percent lower during the maintenance phase of the cycle. We found little empirical evidence linking average officer crew experience and readiness.					
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Background

- Last year, United States Fleet Forces Command (USFF) proposed changes in the deployment and manning of carrier strike groups (CSGs)
 - Reasons for proposed changes
 - Increase forward presence
 - Maintain/increase crew experience throughout the fleet response plan (FRP) cycle
 - Proposed solutions
 - Change FRP cycle to enhance CSG presence
 - Increase from one 7-month deployment in a 32-month period to two 7-month deployments in a 36-month period
 - Change CSG manning rules to lockdown crews
 - Prohibit free rotation of crew members during workups and deployment
 - 100% of officers will rotate at the 36-month point (end of FRP cycle)



For some time now, there has been a call to increase forward presence by carrier strike groups. Last year, USFF explored alternative ways to increase forward presence, including changing the FRP cycle to include two 7-month deployments in a 36-month cycle instead of one 7-month deployment in a 32-month cycle. The proposed FRP cycle was called enhanced CSG (E-CSG).

The Navy must maintain an acceptable level of readiness as it achieves more forward presence. There has been concern that, although ships achieve an acceptable level of readiness by the end of the training phase of the FRP cycle, the level of readiness may decrease during the deployment phase because of the rotation of crew members. This problem will be exacerbated if deployment time is increased without mitigating the effect of rotating crew members.

To counter the potential decrease in readiness during deployment, USFF proposed “locking down” the crews of the combatants that make up the CSG through the whole FRP cycle. It was proposed that an entirely new crew of officers would be assigned to each platform in the CSG at the beginning of the FRP cycle (the maintenance phase). The officers would be kept in those positions (i.e., locked down) until the end of the cycle.

Study focus

- Analyze officer management challenges associated with proposed changes in the deployment and manning of CSGs
 - Impacts of double-pumps and lockdowns on officer retention
 - Effects of crew lockdowns on tour lengths and command opportunities
 - Identification of crew positions that could be locked down
- Sponsor is BUPERS-3 (Head, Community Management), with involvement from N13 staff (Military Personnel Plans and Policy)



This study was originally intended to examine the impact of E-CSG and the proposed officer crew lockdowns on officer careers and community management. Specifically, the sponsor was interested in the effect of the “double-pump” deployments (i.e., two 7-month deployments in a 36-month FRP cycle) on the retention of conventional surface warfare officers (SWOs) and aviators. There was also interest in the effect of crew lockdowns on tour lengths and command opportunities, particularly for the aviation community, and interest in identifying which crew positions should be locked down if it were infeasible to lock down the entire officer crew.

This study was sponsored by BUPERS-3, Director, Military Community Management. Because this study focuses on officers only, it was largely shaped by BUPERS-31, Head, Officer Community Management. In addition, N131, Head, Officer Plans and Policies, was also involved in shaping the study.

During the early part of this study, the Navy determined that SWOs with the nuclear subspecialty would not be part of any crew lockdown plan. All of the analysis in this study excludes these officers.

Original tasking

1. Examine the relationship between double-pump CSG deployments (i.e., deploying for two 7-month periods in an FRP cycle) and conventional SWO and aviator retention
2. Examine the flow of officers from assignment to assignment as it relates to manning CSGs
3. Describe the effect of the CSG lockdown on command opportunity in the aviation community
4. Determine which key CSG officer positions should be locked down to ensure readiness



This is the original tasking for the study. In task 1, we were asked to estimate the effect of double-pump CSG deployments on conventional SWO and aviator retention. Double-pump deployments occur when CSGs are deployed twice in an FRP cycle with little advance notice of the second deployment. We examined the retention of officers who experienced a double-pump CSG deployment from 2009 to 2012 and compared it with the retention of officers who experienced a regular CSG deployment in the same time period.

The intent of task 2 was to examine how officers moved from assignment to assignment over a career. Effectively, in task 2, we were asked to create a simple model of officer career flow in order to address task 3. Because it directly supported task 3—an aviator-specific task—we were asked to focus on aviator careers in task 2.

The third task was motivated by the concern that, if all officers in a CSG were locked down for the entire 36-month FRP cycle, both executive officer (XO) and commanding officer (CO) tours would double in length from their current 18-month durations. Doubling the length of these tours would halve the number of officers who could experience an XO and a CO tour, thus substantially reducing command opportunity. The aviation community was especially concerned about the effect of decreased command opportunity on retention.

Task 4 requested that we address the possibility that it may not be feasible to lock down the entire officer crew. We were asked to consider if a limited number of officers could be locked down for the entire FRP cycle or if a crew could be locked down for only part of the FRP cycle.

Changes in double-pump and lockdown concepts and new challenges for officer management

- USFF is no longer evaluating double-pump deployments in the FRP
 - USFF is now looking at a single, longer deployment (8 months) in a 36-month FRP cycle
- Total officer crew lockdown during the FRP cycle is not workable
 - Consider a lockdown of some (but not all) officer positions over some portion of the FRP cycle
 - Consider the relationship between officer experience and readiness
 - Consider how experience accumulation by officers has changed over time



After several months of intensive study by stakeholders in 2013, it was determined that two 7-month deployments in a 36-month FRP cycle was not the most efficient way to increase forward presence. One 8-month deployment in a 36-month FRP cycle, along with a substantial sustainment period, has been proposed instead.

In addition, a total officer crew lockdown was not considered feasible. The adverse effect on officer career progression and management was considered too great. Instead, the Navy is now exploring the possibility of a partial lockdown, in which certain key positions may be locked down for the whole FRP cycle. (Note that it has not yet been determined which positions should be locked down.) The Navy is also exploring the possibility that the whole officer crew may be locked down through the training and deployment part of the FRP cycle (approximately 20 months) instead of all 36 months of the cycle. It may also be possible to combine these two types of lockdowns, whereby certain positions would be locked down for a portion of the cycle.

In light of the shift in focus for the study, we considered some broader questions about the relationship between officer crew tenure, individual officer experience, and readiness. These relationships are key to understanding how readiness may be affected throughout the FRP cycle by crew rotation practices.

Refocused tasking

1. Examine the relationship between experiencing a double-pump deployment and retention
2. Examine the implications of locking down officer crews
 - a) Changes in average crew tenure over time with lockdown
 - b) Potential benefits of increasing crew tenure
 - c) Costs of increasing crew tenure by lockdown
3. Examine experience accumulation by individual officers



We had completed most of the double-pump retention analysis when the change in the study direction occurred. We kept this original first task so that the sponsor could understand the relationship of retention and exposure to double-pump CSG deployments for conventional SWOs and aviators.

In the new task 2—the focal point of the analysis of crew lockdowns—we focus less on precisely which positions should be locked down and more on understanding the benefits and costs of locking down the officer crew for part of the FRP cycle. We also examine the relationship between average crew tenure and performance.

In the new task 3, we summarize the relationship between cumulative officer experience (i.e., for individual officers, not crew tenure) and readiness that has been found in previous analyses. We also examine how cumulative sea duty and cumulative time deployed has changed over time for conventional SWOs and aviators.

We provide some conclusions from our analysis and recommendations for the way forward.

Task 1: Examine relationship between experiencing a double-pump deployment and retention

- Consider conventional SWOs and aviators
- Select those who deployed with CSGs from 2009 to mid-2012
- Group the officers by whether they experienced a double-pump deployment or not
 - Include those who experienced only one of the deployments in a double-pump
- Calculate the retention for each of those groups by officer community



Some have speculated that more time at sea and/or unannounced double-pumps may decrease morale and, thus, retention. A CNA study compared the first-term reenlistment rates of enlisted sailors who experienced both deployments in a double-pump CSG with those of sailors who experienced a single deployment in the same period [1]. Holding constant other factors, the results showed lower first-term reenlistment rates for sailors who experienced both deployments in a double-pump. The difference was especially pronounced for sailors with long initial contracts.

To examine the relationship between experiencing a double-pump deployment and officer retention, we use the personnel records for conventional SWOs and aviators who deployed with a CSG between 2009 and mid-2012. We compare the loss behavior of those who had single-deployment CSGs with those who had exposure to any part of a double-pump CSG.

For analytical purposes, the 2009–2012 timeframe is fixed because it is the only time in recent history when double-pump deployments have occurred. Also, most conventional SWOs in a CSG are not assigned to the carrier, which is the only platform in a CSG that must complete both deployments of a double-pump. As a result, very few junior SWOs actually experienced both deployments of a double-pump CSG. The small sample sizes prohibit us from comparing the loss behavior of SWOs who experienced both deployments vice those who experienced just one deployment of the double-pump. Instead, we examine whether *any* exposure to a double-pump may have a negative effect on junior officer retention. The idea is that, even if SWOs are not personally exposed to both deployments, double-pumps may affect their loss behavior if overall crew morale is negatively affected.

We make a similar comparison for aviators, though, unlike SWOs, most aviators are assigned to the carrier, so those who were exposed to a double-pump CSG were much more likely to have experienced both deployments.

CSGs that were double-pumped

Carrier strike group	Carrier hull	Deployment	Deployment start date	Deployment end date
<i>Dwight D Eisenhower</i>	CVN-69	1	2/21/2009	7/29/2009
		2	1/2/2010	7/28/2010
<i>Abraham Lincoln</i>	CVN-72	1	9/7/2010	3/23/2011
		2	12/7/2011	8/7/2012
<i>Carl Vinson</i>	CVN-70	1	11/30/2010	6/14/2011
		2	11/29/2011	5/23/2012
<i>Enterprise</i>	CVN-65	1	1/13/2011	7/15/2011
		2	3/11/2012	11/4/2012
<i>John C Stennis</i>	CVN-74	1	7/25/2011	3/2/2012
		2	8/27/2012	Spring 2013



The CSGs shown above experienced two deployments in an FRP cycle (i.e., they were double-pumped) from 2009 to 2012. They are listed by the carrier name in chronological order of the first deployment. Most of the double-pump deployments for each of the five CSGs occurred within about 6 to 8 months of each other. It is our understanding that there was little lead time in announcing the second deployment, so CSG personnel would not have expected it.

Ships associated with CSG double-pumps

Carrier strike group	Carrier hull	Both	1 st only	2 nd only
<i>Dwight D Eisenhower</i>	CVN-69		CG-50	CG-66
			CG-64	DDG-61
			DDG-55	*DDG-64*
			DDG-57	DDG-74
			DDG-58	DDG-99
<i>Abraham Lincoln</i>	CVN-72	CG-71	DDG-86	DDG-104
		CG-72	*DDG-97*	DDG-69
		DDG-92		
<i>Carl Vinson</i>	CVN-70	CG-52	*DDG-101*	
			DDG-55	DDG-53
			DDG-60	*DDG-97*
			DDG-72	
<i>Enterprise</i>	CVN-65		CG-55	CG-69
			DDG-52	DDG-78
			DDG-84	DDG-94
			DDG-87	DDG-95
<i>John C Stennis</i>	CVN-74	CG-53	DDG-100	*DDG-101*
			DDG-108	DDG-73
			DDG-64	DDG-79
			DDG-91	

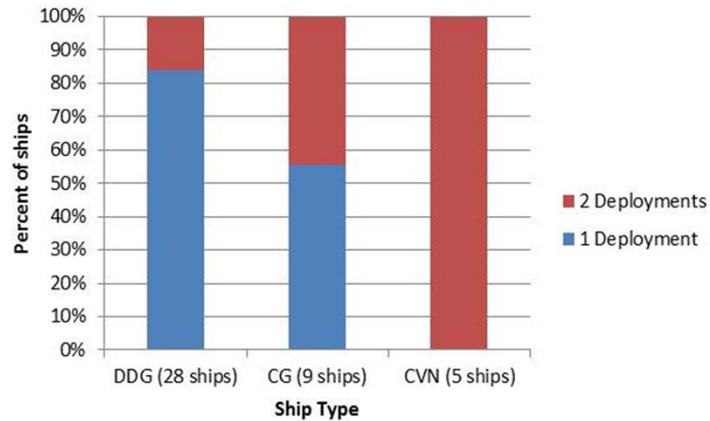
These ships (4 DDGs) deployed twice, but in different CSGs



These are the surface escort ships that deployed with the carriers to make up the CSGs. Of the 28 DDGs associated with these CSGs, only one did both deployments of a double-pump. Another four DDGs deployed twice in the period with different CSGs. Of the nine CGs associated with these CSGs, four did both deployments of a double-pump. In total, only five escort ships took part in both deployments of a double-pump; they are listed in the “Both” column. Four other escort ships (all DDGs) were exposed to two double-pump deployments, but not with the same CSG. They are indicated in the two single-deployment lists.

Although the carriers in the CSGs completed both deployments of a double-pump, few of the surface escort ships did. Since conventional SWOs are concentrated on the escort ships and not on the carrier, few conventional SWOs actually experienced both deployments.

Multiple deployments associated with CSG double-pumps *by ship type*



The DDGs were the least likely to have completed both deployments in a double-pump CSG. Of the 28 DDGs involved, five had two deployments with CSGs in the period (17 percent). Only one of those five DDGs took part in both deployments of the same CSG. Four of nine CGs had two deployments with CSGs in the period (44 percent). All four of those CGs took part in both deployments of the same CSG.

Ships associated with CSG double-pumps completed by mid-2012*

Carrier strike group	Carrier hull	Both	1 st only	2 nd only	Completion date of second deployment
<i>Dwight D Eisenhower</i>	CVN-69		CG-50	CG-66	7/28/2010
			CG-64	DDG-61	
			DDG-55	DDG-64	
			DDG-57	DDG-74	
			DDG-58	DDG-99	
<i>Abraham Lincoln</i>	CVN-72	CG-71	DDG-86	DDG-104	8/7/2012
		CG-72	*DDG-97*	DDG-69	
		DDG-92			
<i>Carl Vinson</i>	CVN-70	CG-52	DDG-101	DDG-53	5/23/2012
			DDG-55		
			DDG-60		
			DDG-72	*DDG-97*	

These ships (2 DDGs) deployed twice, but in different CSGs



*For retention calculations. SWO loss data that would allow us to include Stennis and Enterprise deployments in retention calculations are not currently available.

In order to observe officer loss behavior after the deployments, we include only the CSG double-pumps that concluded by mid-2012. We then observe loss behavior from the end of the double-pump until the end of calendar year (CY) 2012. This means that we observe the loss behavior of some officers who were on the second deployments of the *Abraham Lincoln* and *Carl Vinson* CSGs for only about half a year, whereas we observe the behavior of officers from the *Eisenhower* CSG for several years.

We also observe the loss rates of conventional SWOs and aviators associated with any of the CSGs that had a single deployment between 2009 and mid-2012. These include the *Nimitz*, *Harry S. Truman*, *George H. W. Bush*, *Ronald Reagan*, *Theodore Roosevelt*, and *John C. Stennis* CSGs. (The *Stennis* CSG had a single deployment in early 2009 and a double-pump deployment in 2011 through 2012).

We limit our SWO sample to those in year groups (YGs) 2004 through 2007 because they reached their minimum service requirements (MSRs) during or soon after the CSG deployments. We found only four conventional SWOs from these YGs who had completed both deployments of the double-pump CSGs. Thus, we included any SWO or aviator who took part in either deployment of a double-pump in the sample of those exposed to a double-pump.

To observe loss behavior after MSR for aviators, we limit our sample to those in YGs 1998 through 2002. Many more aviators experienced both deployments of the double-pump because many were assigned to the carrier.

Retention of SWOs on deployments associated with CSG double-pumps vs. others

- For deployments of SWOs in YGs 2004–2007 from Jan. 2009 to mid-2012 with loss behavior observed through Dec. 2012

SWOs by type of deployment (Jan. 2009 to mid-2012)	Total	Still in SWO community as of Dec. 2012	SWO loss by Dec. 2012	Loss rate
Associated with a double-pump CSG*	129	83	46	36%
Associated with a non-double-pump CSG (6 deployments)	151	106	45	30%

The difference in the loss rates is not statistically significant.

*Only 4 SWOs from YGs 2004-2007 served on both deployments of a double-pump. Thus, any inference drawn must be about SWOs who are associated with double-pump CSGs, not SWOs who actually experienced both deployments of a double-pump. The single-deployment CSGs were the *Nimitz*, *Harry S. Truman*, *George H. W. Bush*, *Ronald Reagan*, *Theodore Roosevelt*, and *John C. Stennis* (single deployment in early 2009).



These are the results from the comparison of loss rates for conventional SWOs in YGs 2004 through 2007 who were deployed with CSGs sometime from January 2009 to mid-2012. The loss rate through the end of 2012 for SWOs who were assigned to CSGs that were double-pumped was 36 percent, while the loss rate of SWOs who were assigned to CSGs that were not double-pumped was 30 percent. Although these rates are different, the difference is not statistically significant.

Note that our calculations are simple cross-tabulations. We have not controlled for other factors that could affect retention, such as marital status, accession source, and college major. Our small sample sizes make this difficult to do. Likewise, some of these SWO community losses are officers who were slated to move to another community. (Note, however, that we have no reason to believe that the characteristics of officers exposed to double-pump CSGs differed from those who were assigned to single-deployment CSGs.)

Note also that these loss rates are lower than the loss rates that are usually reported for junior SWOs. Often, the reported loss rates for junior SWOs span years of commissioned service (YCS) 3 through 8—a long observation period. Our calculations include multiple year groups whose loss behavior we observe for different lengths of time, although none as long as five years. For some YGs, we observe post-MSR loss behavior for several years after the CSG deployment (e.g., YGs 2004 and 2005); for others, we observe only months of this loss behavior (e.g., YG 2007). Again, sample sizes are the cause. If we didn't combine YGs, our samples would be too small to analyze.

Retention of aviators on deployments associated with CSG double-pumps vs. others

- For deployments of aviators in YGs 1998–2002 from Jan. 2009 to mid-2012 with loss behavior observed through Dec. 2012*

Aviators by type of deployment (Jan. 2009 to mid-2012)	Total	Still in aviation community as of Dec. 2012	Aviation loss by Dec. 2012	Loss rate
Associated with a double-pump CSG*	275	248	27	11%
Associated with any other deployment	972	862	110	10%

The difference in the loss rates is not statistically significant.

*We also compared the differences in retention for aviators in YGs 2000–2004. We found no statistically significant difference in loss rates for the aviators in double-pump CSGs and those on any other deployment during the same time. The single-deployment CSGs were the *Nimitz*, *Harry S. Truman*, *George H. W. Bush*, *Ronald Reagan*, *Theodore Roosevelt*, and *John C. Stennis* (single deployment in early 2009).



We find similar results for aviators. There was no statistically significant difference in the loss rates of aviators in YGs 1998 through 2002 who deployed with a double-pump CSG between January 2009 and mid-2012 and those on all other deployments during the same time. (As in the SWO analysis, these loss rates are unadjusted for other officer characteristics.)

This was also true when we looked only at the jet aviators (the only platform that has enough observations to make the comparison); the difference in loss rates for those assigned to double-pump CSGs vice those assigned to other CSGs was not statistically significant.

The completion of the minimum service requirement is difficult for us to observe for individual aviators, and it can range from approximately YCS 7 to YCS 12. To ensure that we included aviators who reached their MSR in our sample timeframe, we did the same calculations for aviators in YGs 2000 through 2004 and found the same result. There was no statistically significant difference in the loss rates of aviators on double-pump CSG deployments vice those on other deployments during the same time period.

Takeaways on officer retention effects from double-pump CSGs

- The sample size is too small to draw conclusions about retention and SWOs who experienced both deployments of a double-pump
- The data suggest no difference in post-MSR loss rates for conventional junior SWOs who had some association with double-pump CSGs (i.e., who experienced one deployment) and those who experienced a non-double-pump CSG deployment
- The data suggest no difference in post-MSR loss rates for aviators who deployed with double-pump CSGs and those on other deployments
- We did not build a detailed retention model for this exercise
- It is not advised to draw broad conclusions about the effect of double-pumps on conventional SWO and aviator retention
- Future research could include the effect on retention of the amount of time deployed rather than exposure to a double-pump



Our results suggest that junior officers who were exposed to double-pump CSGs had similar community retention as the other officers who were assigned to single-deployment CSGs during the same time period. This was true for both conventional SWOs and aviators.

Although it does not appear that exposure to a double-pump CSG had a negative effect on conventional SWOs and aviator loss rates, we urge caution in making broad conclusions about the effect of double-pump deployments on officer loss behavior, particularly for conventional SWOs. First, only four conventional SWOs from YGs 2004 through 2007 completed both deployments in the double-pump CSGs, so we were not able to conclude anything about the effect of two deployments on loss rates. We can say with more confidence that it does not appear that association with a double-pump CSG (i.e., having served on one of the deployments) affected loss rates. Second, we did not control for other differences in officers that could affect loss rates, such as accession source, marital status, and college major.

About 40 percent of conventional SWO sea duty billets are found in CSGs, so, if double-pump deployments became widespread, this would affect a significant part of the community. The analysis should be revisited if the Navy uses double-pumps in the future.

It could be that officers are less sensitive to double-pumps and more sensitive to total time deployed. Depending on the quality of the data, more research could be done to examine the relationship of retention and personnel tempo, which is the count of deployment days away from homeport, duty station, or unit for each officer.

Task 2: Examine the implications of locking down officer crews

- Changes in officer crew tenure over time with lockdown
- Potential benefits of increasing crew tenure
- Costs of increasing crew tenure by lockdown



A goal of training in the FRP cycle is to achieve a certain level of readiness—typically a minimum of C-2. The challenge is to maintain C-2 readiness (or higher) throughout the deployment that follows the training period. This is true no matter what FRP construct is in place (i.e., two 7-month deployments or one 8-month deployment).

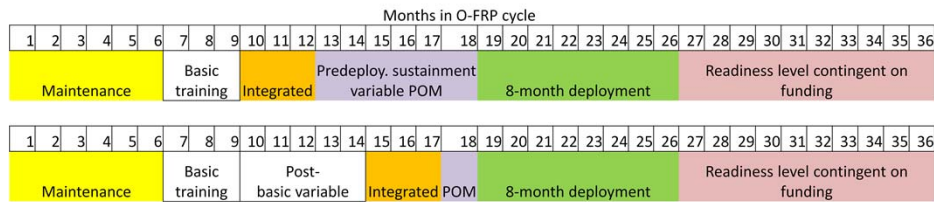
One concern is that CSGs may achieve acceptable levels of readiness by the end of the training phase of the FRP cycle. Because crew members rotate, however, CSGs may not maintain (and may even decrease) their readiness during other phases of the FRP cycle, specifically during deployment.

To avoid this readiness loss, it has been proposed to lock down CSG crews over the training and deployment phases of the FRP cycle. That is, crew members would be allowed to rotate only at very low rates (or not at all) from the beginning of the training phase to the end of the deployment phase. This has the potential of maintaining or even increasing readiness during the periods of the cycle when it is most critical.

The first step is to understand how average officer crew tenure changes with different rotational assumptions. Then, we examine the relationship between average crew tenure and readiness. To date, this relationship has not been well established empirically.

Finally, we examine the potential costs of locking down officer crews. These include challenges of synchronizing the schedules of all the ships in the CSG, potential incompatibility with the demands of officer career paths, the fixed promotion windows, current sea-shore rotation plans, and other constraints in the distribution system.

Proposed Optimized Fleet Response Plan (O-FRP) cycles as of November 2013



As of November 2013, the Navy had proposed two variations for an Optimized Fleet Response Plan (O-FRP). In each, the first 6 months of the cycle is the maintenance phase. The next 12 months consist of (in varying order) basic training, integrated training, and a predeployment sustainment period that includes Preparation for Overseas Movement (POM). The deployment phase occurs over the next 8 months. The final 10 months of the cycle have not yet been fully specified; however, conceptually, it is a postdeployment sustainment phase with an unspecified goal for readiness level.

Changes in officer crew tenure over time with lockdown

- Use a notional example to gain insight about how average officer crew tenure changes under various crew rotation plans



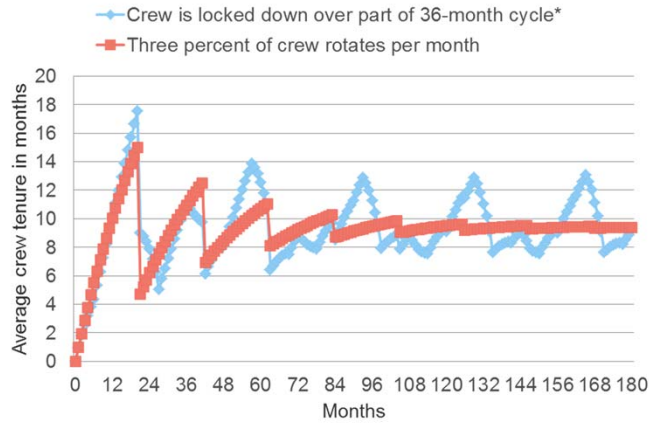
Average officer crew tenure changes over the FRP cycle depending on monthly crew turnover rates. We show how average crew tenure changes over the FRP cycle with and without a lockdown.

In the no-lockdown model, we assume that the crew would rotate at a constant rate of 3 percent per month, which roughly corresponds to full crew turnover in 36 months. Using this rotational assumption, we calculate average crew tenure for each month of the FRP cycle.

In a lockdown model, we assume that the crew would minimally rotate (i.e., rotations only for emergencies or poor behavior) from month 7 through month 26 of the cycle—or 20 months of lockdown from the beginning of basic training through the end of the deployment. In the final 10 months of the cycle, we assume that the crew rotates at 3 percent per month. During the maintenance phase, we assume that the crew rotates at 11 percent per month to make up for the lockdown period. Using these rotational assumptions, we calculate average crew tenure for each month of the FRP cycle again.

The next slide shows the comparison of average crew tenure over time for the no-lockdown and the lockdown models.

Average tenure of a notional officer crew with lockdown in O-FRP cycle



*We assume 20-month tours. The crew rotation assumed over the O-FRP cycle is 11 percent per month during the maintenance phase, 0.5 percent per month during months 7–26 of the cycle (i.e., the training, POM, and deployment portions of the cycle), and 3.0 percent per month during the postdeployment phase.



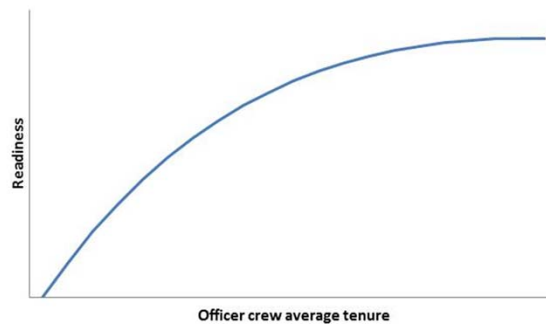
In the no-lockdown model, during which the officer crew rotates at a constant rate of 3 percent per month, the officer average crew tenure peaks at about 15 months in the middle of the first FRP cycle. Average crew tenure then begins to trend toward its steady-state level of 9.4 months. It takes about 8 years, or almost three FRP cycles, to reach the steady-state average crew tenure.

In the lockdown model, the crew reaches a peak average crew tenure of 18 months at the end of the first lockdown period. It then settles into an average crew tenure pattern of peaking at about 12.5 months at the end of the deployment phase (the result of almost no rotation during the previous 20 months) and reaching a low of about 7.6 months at the end of the maintenance phase (the result of very high rotation during the maintenance phase) in each cycle.

The graph illustrates that, in the lockdown model, the Navy trades a higher average crew tenure during training and deployment for a lower average crew tenure during the maintenance phase. Specifically, using our assumptions about tour length and lockdown vs. no-lockdown rotational patterns, the lockdown model yields a 33-percent-higher average officer crew tenure at the end of the deployment phase (12.5 months vs. 9.4 months) and almost a 25-percent-lower average crew tenure at the end of the maintenance phase (7.6 months vs. 9.4 months) in the steady state.

Potential benefits of increasing crew tenure

- Actual relationship between officer crew average tenure and readiness is not clear
 - It is plausible that increasing officer crew average tenure could increase readiness
 - But, at some point, increases in officer crew average tenure may add little to readiness



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To understand if lockdown is a more effective rotation plan than the constant rotation of 3 percent per month, we need to understand the relationship between average crew tenure and readiness. It seems plausible that higher average crew tenure is correlated with higher readiness. It also seems plausible that this may be true for a range of average crew tenure values but perhaps not all values. At some point, increasing average crew tenure may lead to smaller and smaller increases in readiness, as is depicted in the notional graph above.

To our knowledge, the relationship between average officer crew tenure and readiness has not been established. In part, this is because we do not have many available measures of readiness, especially for tactical readiness.

To add to our understanding of the correlation between officer crew tenure and readiness, we calculate simple correlations of performance outcomes from exercises and officer crew tenure. The next slide summarizes those results.

Officer crew tenure and performance

- Calculated the correlation of
 - Median officer crew tenure and four training exercise outcomes
 - Percentage of officers new to the crew in the last 90 days and the same four training exercise outcomes
- Tested whether the 8 correlation coefficients (crew tenure x 4 outcomes; percentage new crew x 4 outcomes) were different from zero
- No real evidence that median officer crew tenure or percentage of officers new to the crew were related to training outcomes
 - 6 of the 8 correlation coefficients were not statistically different from zero (i.e., median crew tenure and percentage of officers new to the crew are uncorrelated with these training outcomes)
 - Two correlation coefficients were significant only at the 10-percent level
- Limitation of analysis: there are only 11 observations for each training outcome



We have data on four performance outcomes from 11 CSG training events. Because of secret classification, we cannot give more detail on these performance measures here, but they can be found in [2] and [3]. We also have data on median number of days that the conventional SWOs were in the CSG crew (combined across the surface platforms in the CSG) by each of the 11 training event dates. We calculated a correlation coefficient for median crew tenure and each of the four performance metrics. We find that none of the four correlation coefficients are statistically different from zero at the 5-percent confidence level, and only one is statistically different from zero at the 10-percent level. This correlation was positive—indicating that, the higher the median crew tenure, the higher the performance score. Given the low confidence level, however, we believe this outcome suggests further research rather than a clear-cut indication of a crew tenure-performance correlation.

Performance could be correlated with the percentage of officers who are new to the crew. To test this, we also calculated a correlation coefficient for each training performance metric and the percentage of officers who had rotated into the crew in the 90 days before the event. We find that none of these four correlation coefficients are statistically different from zero at the 5-percent confidence level, and only one is statistically different from zero at the 10-percent confidence level. (Note that this was not the same performance metric that was correlated with median crew tenure at the 10-percent confidence level.) This correlation was positive—indicating that, the higher the percentage of new officer crew members, the higher the performance score. This is counter to our hypothesis.

We find almost no statistical significance in the correlations between crew characteristics and performance. This is likely due in part to our very small sample of 11 observations.

Another possible benefit of officer crew lockdown

- Minimize costs of rotation
 - To leadership
 - To crew members
- Supporting data are lacking, but some SMEs see potential



There are other potential benefits to locking down CSG officer crews. For example, consider what happens when a key officer on a surface combatant in a CSG rotates. The ship (and CSG) leadership must establish a working relationship with the newly assigned officer. Although the Navy has a long history of accommodating rotating crew members, it does impose a cost on leadership to have to learn the strengths of their new subordinates and incorporate that information into their leadership plan. This is especially critical if the rotation takes place during deployment. Crew lockdowns would minimize the costs to leadership of rotation even if there is no apparent effect on readiness and performance.

Although we do not have data from surveys or focus groups to support this idea, it has been suggested by some subject matter experts (SMEs).

Costs of locking down a conventional SWO crew

- Issues for community management
 - Lockdown periods limit assignment to CSGs within the FRP cycle and across CSGs
 - Officer career milestones are measured against years of commissioned service
 - These two systems are time-dependent, but on different clocks
- Implications for generalist vs. specialist SWO development
 - Platform assignments over time



Even if increasing average officer crew tenure may bring benefits to CSG operations, there are costs to locking down the crews. This is true even when only part of the officer crew is locked down over part of the FRP cycle.

First, there are a number of community management issues to consider. For example, how can officers be detailed to ships in a CSG at just the right point to accommodate both the lockdown and the critical junctures in the officer career path, which are dictated in part by fixed promotion points and other career milestone events?

Second, locking down the crew may keep the Navy from assigning officers across platforms as it does now. The current plan is to assign SWOs to two 18-month divisional officer tours usually on different ships (and usually different ship types) and to two 18-month department head tours usually each on a different ship. This allows SWOs to be developed as generalists across a number of different platforms. It is not clear if instituting a lockdown, which would constrain rotational patterns for the platforms in CSGs, would disrupt the development of junior SWOs across multiple platforms.

Community management challenges

- Synchronizing SWO detailing with FRP cycles
- Lockdown limitations on assignments



A policy to lock down officer crews (or portions of the officer crews) will only be effective if the platforms assigned to the CSG remain part of the CSG for at least the duration of the training and deployment phases of the FRP cycle. Thus, the first change necessary for lockdown effectiveness is to align the CSG ship schedules. Assuming that the ship schedules can be synchronized to keep the same platforms together for the training and deployment phases, the next step is to assign conventional SWOs to the CSG platforms such that they can be locked down for the 20-month period.

Enforcing a lockdown period significantly lowers the time available to detail to the surface platforms in the CSG. Across the FRP, the lockdown period (20 months) amounts to 55 percent of the 36-month cycle for a single CSG. It would be a substantial constraint in the SWO assignment process to have the surface platforms associated with all (or most) CSGs available for assignment only half the time.

This constraint may be especially problematic for officers who have screened for department head (DH). From a career progression perspective, it is beneficial for officers to begin their back-to-back DH tours between YCS 7 and 8 so that their performance as a DH can be evaluated before they are required to go before the O-4 promotion board. Any margin of error in ship scheduling that resulted in a delayed DH assignment could potentially move a SWO's DH tour to a less advantageous time with regard to promotion. Similarly, changes in CSG platform schedules that alter the start of the lockdown period may lengthen the waiting time for a sea assignment.

Experience accumulation across surface platforms .

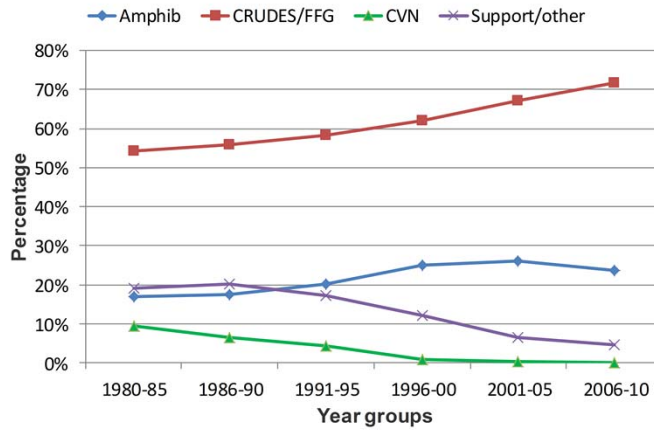
- Conventional SWOs have gained sea experience on several platforms by the end of their DH tours, typically in two ships as a divisional officer (DIVO) and two ships as a DH
- Locking down crews may limit breadth of experience



Locking down officer crews may also result in less ability to assign SWOs across platforms. This may be contrary to another SWO community goal, which is to have broad experience across a number of different platforms, especially early in the career. Under a lockdown scenario, SWOs may have to be assigned to fewer platforms for longer periods during their DIVO and DH tours to accommodate the current sea/shore rotation plan and any other constraints in the distribution system.

To understand how variation in platform assignments has evolved over time, we examined data on SWOs and the platforms to which they were assigned in their first four sea duty assignments. Because there are many potential assignments across platforms, we show as an example what happened to SWOs whose first sea assignment was on an amphibious ship. (The pattern of ship assignments for those starting on another platform is similar to that displayed in the next few slides.)

Conventional SWO 1st sea assignment by ship type

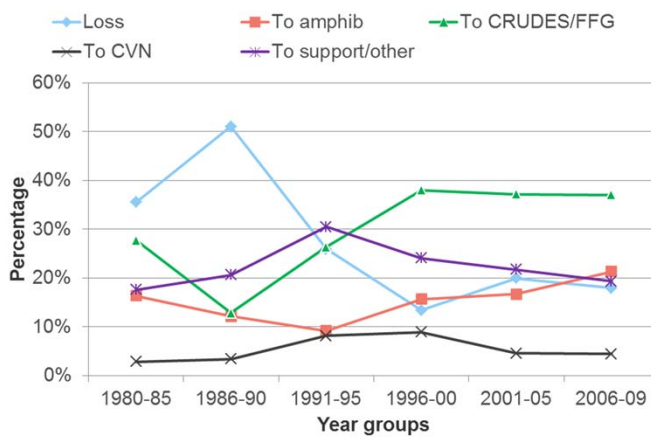


This slide shows how, over the past 20 years, the first sea assignment for conventional SWOs has shifted toward cruiser-destroyers (CRUDES) and frigates (FFGs). On average, about 70 percent of the SWOs in YGs 2006 through 2010 were first assigned to a CRUDES platform. This is an increase from about 55 percent for SWOs in YGs 1980 through 1985.

First assignments to carriers changed notably over time as well. About 10 percent of the SWOs from YGs 1980 through 1985 were first assigned to carriers, whereas no SWOs from recent cohorts were first assigned to carriers.

Although first assignments used to be spread more evenly across platforms, there is still variety in first-assignment platforms for recent SWO cohorts. Slightly more than half were first assigned to a CRUDES platform, while the remaining half were assigned to amphibious ships (amphibs), FFGs, and support and other ships (support/other).

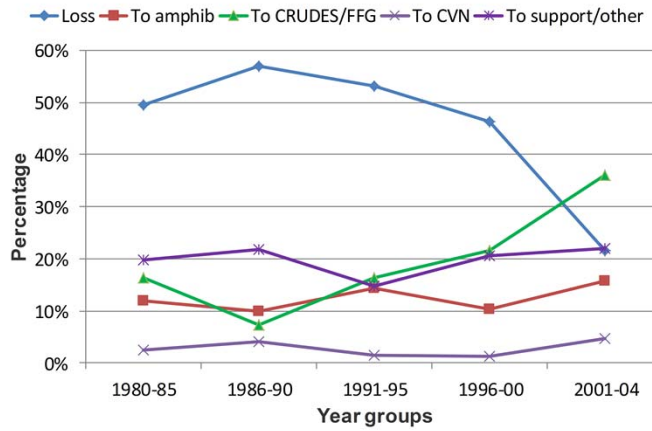
2nd sea assignment if 1st sea assignment is amphib



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We show the second sea duty assignment given that the first was an amphibious ship. Including loss from the Navy as a possible outcome, the chances of being assigned to another amphib ranged from about 15 percent for the SWOs in YGs 1980 through 1985 to just over 20 percent for the 2006–2009 cohorts. For the cohorts since the mid-1990s, the most likely second sea duty assignment was to a CRUDES or FFG platform. The next most likely was to a support/other ship or to another amphib.

3rd sea assignment if 2nd sea assignment is amphib

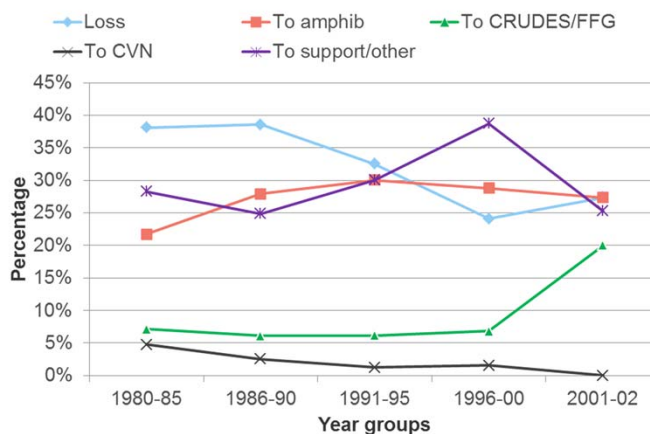


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For SWOs in cohorts 1980 through 2000 whose second sea assignment was to an amphib, the most likely third sea duty assignment was to a support/other ship. For more recent cohorts, the most likely third sea duty assignment was to a CRUDES or FFG platform. This is followed by assignment to a support/other ship and finally to another amphib.

For many SWOs, the third sea assignment is the first DH tour. These data show that over time there has been significant variation in assignments across platforms through the first half of SWO careers.

4th sea assignment if 3rd sea assignment is amphib



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Finally, by the fourth sea tour (and likely the second DH tour), there is some convergence on platform assignment. In this case, SWOs are more likely to be assigned to a support/other ship or to another amphib given that their third assignment was to an amphib. Note, however, that the chances of being assigned to a CRUDES or FFG platform for the fourth assignment rose substantially for YGs 2001 and 2002.

It is not clear exactly how a crew lockdown would affect the ability of the SWO community to assign across platforms over time. Given that the lockdown adds another constraint in the distribution system and may favor assigning SWOs for longer periods of time to the same platform, assignment variation could be negatively affected.

(A set of these assignment slides with FFG assignments broken out separately from CRUDES assignments is available on request from the authors.)

Takeaways on examining the implications of locking down officer crews

- In the steady state, locking down CSG officer crews could
 - Increase the maximum average officer crew tenure during the FRP cycle by about 33% (approx. 12.5 months vs. 9.4 months)
 - Decrease the minimum average crew tenure by about 25% during the FRP cycle (approx. 7.6 months vs. 9.4 months)
- If only part of the crew is locked down, the increase in the maximum average crew tenure is proportional to the fraction of the crew that is locked down (e.g., if 40% of the crew is locked down, the increase in average crew tenure will be 13% (40% x 33%))
- Using a very small sample, we found almost no evidence that median crew tenure or the percentage of officers new to the crew is correlated with certain training outcomes
- There are costs to locking down crews
 - Officer community management issues
 - Generalist vs. specialist SWO development



If CSG officer crews were locked down for the training and deployment phases of the FRP, the maximum average crew tenure in the steady state is a third higher than the maximum obtained by the crew that was not locked down (the increase is from 9.4 to 12.5 months in the steady state). Likewise, the minimum average crew tenure in the steady state is about 25 percent lower in the lockdown scenario compared with the no-lockdown scenario (the decrease is from 9.4 to 7.6 months). If only a portion of the crew is locked down, the differences in maximum and minimum crew tenure under the two scenarios change proportionally with the percentage of the crew that is locked down.

Locking down crews for part of the FRP cycle increases average crew tenure through a critical part of the cycle, but it is not clear if increasing average crew tenure affects readiness or performance. To our knowledge, there are no studies that attempt to correlate average crew tenure and readiness. Using a very small sample, we found almost no correlation between certain CSG training outcomes and median crew tenure. Similarly, we found almost no correlation between these same training outcomes and the percentage of the officers who were new to the crew. Our sample sizes, however, were very small. More analysis should be done to understand the relationship between crew tenure characteristics and readiness.

To enjoy any potential benefits of a locked-down CSG officer crew, there will potentially be costs to officer career development and to community management. Assuming that CSG ship schedules can be synchronized, there will likely have to be changes made to detailing and to other facets of officer career management. Crew lockdowns also increase the possibility that SWOs will experience fewer platforms over their careers, which may be counter to the generalist development approach.

Task 3: Examine experience accumulation for individual officers

- Review studies that examine the relationship between other types of officer experience and readiness
- Examine changes in individual officer experience accumulation over time
 - For conventional SWOs, consider:
 - Changes in cumulative deployment over time
 - Changes in cumulative sea duty over time
 - For aviators, consider:
 - Changes in cumulative sea duty over time



As with average officer crew tenure, individual officer tenure on the ship and/or overall experience level may matter for readiness. Past studies indicate modest evidence of this; we review those findings in the next slide. Then we examine data on how individual officer experience accumulation has changed over time.

Relationship of officer tenure in unit identification code (UIC), overall experience, and ship readiness •

- Past CNA studies that used data on CGs, DDs, DDGs, FFs, and FFGs from the 1980s found, holding other factors constant, that
 - CO length of time on the ship was positively correlated with
 - A better material condition index (MCI) score
 - The percentage of time free of serious casualty reports (CASREPs) on FFs and DDGs (small effect)
 - The number of XO positions an XO had held was positively correlated with a better MCI score
 - There were bigger positive effects on material readiness from
 - Increasing the percentage of enlisted requirements filled
 - Decreasing the percentage of enlisted crew new to the ship



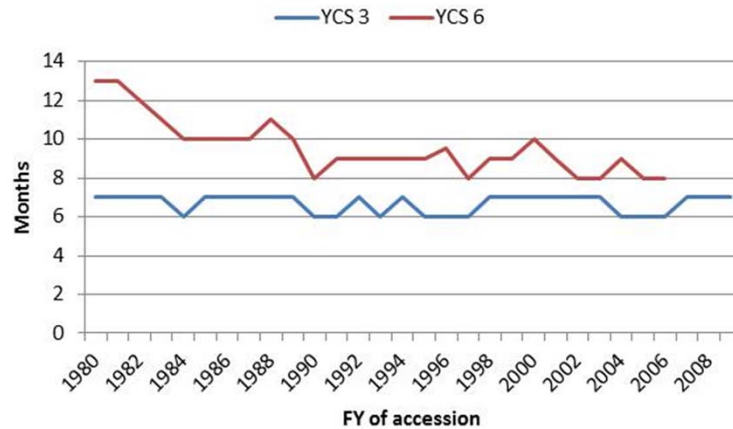
One CNA study found a modest positive relationship between the time that the CO had spent on the ship and a better MCI score [4]. Another study found a small positive relationship between time that the CO had spent on the ship and fewer CASREPs [5]. The authors of [4] also showed a small positive relationship between the number of commands an XO had held and a better MCI score. In both of these studies, the authors controlled for other factors that could affect these readiness measures, such as months since last overhaul, fleet (Pacific or Atlantic), steaming hours, percentage of the enlisted crew new to the ship in the past quarter, and level of enlisted manning relative to requirements.

The effects of officer characteristics on readiness were small compared with the effects of certain enlisted crew characteristics. For example, the authors of [4] showed that the percentage of the enlisted requirements that were filled and the percentage of the enlisted crew that had rotated into the crew in the last quarter had substantially larger estimated effects on material readiness (positive and negative, respectively) than any of the officer attributes.

These results were based on MCI scores and CASREP filings from several classes of cruisers, destroyers, and frigates in the 1980s. Newer classes of ships have been introduced to the fleet, and they are manned differently today than they were in the 1980s. It would be useful to revisit these estimates with more recent data.

Readiness is often measured on the material condition of ships because we have reasonably good data on it. Although maintaining/improving material readiness is important, it may not be the key reason for proposing a lockdown of officer billets. Tactical readiness/performance may be a bigger concern. Thus, in addition to updating older studies on the relationship of crew characteristics and the material readiness of ships, we also need to consider other measures of readiness that reflect tactical capability.

SWO median cumulative deployed time by YCS 3, 6 .

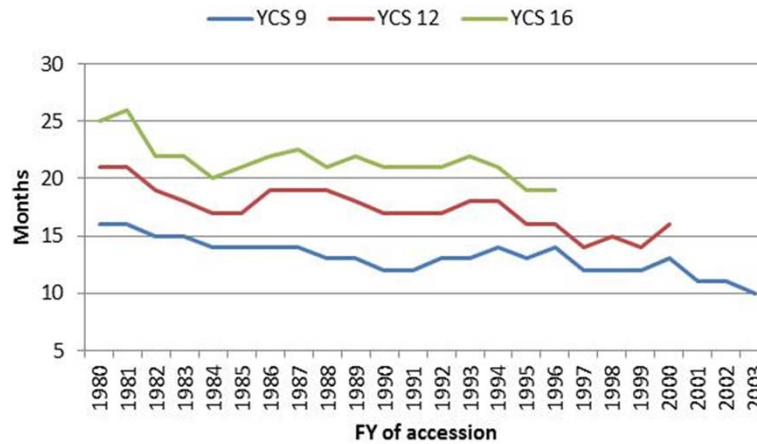


Individual officer cumulative experience could also affect readiness. To our knowledge, [4] is the only study to suggest that overall experience level may be related to readiness. (The authors found that the number of commands that an XO had held was positively related to the MCI score.)

We are not able to estimate the correlation of individual experience level and readiness in this study. We can, however, lay the groundwork for future research. We examine whether the accumulation of sea duty experience and deployed time has changed over time. In this slide, we show the median cumulative deployed time for conventional SWO accession cohorts since 1980. We identify all of the conventional SWOs who stay in the community to the YCS of interest (e.g., YCS 3 or 6). Most SWOs have completed part of the DIVO tours by YCS 3, and they are between their DIVO and DH tours by YCS 6. We calculated each SWO's cumulative time assigned to a sea duty UIC and the time that those UICs are deployed. We then calculated the median cumulative deployed time across the cohort. We used the median because a few SWOs accumulated unusually large amounts of deployed time by the YCS of interest, while others accumulated very little deployed time. Using the median for the cohort avoids the undue influence of outliers.

The median cumulative deployed time for conventional SWOs by YCS 3 changed little over time; it has remained between 6 and 7 months for nearly 30 years. By YCS 6, there was a decrease in median cumulative deployed time from about 13 months to about 10 months for the accession cohorts in the early 1980s. Since the accession cohorts of the early 1990s, however, the median cumulative deployed time for each cohort has remained between 8 and 10 months.

SWO median cumulative deployed time by YCS 9, 12, 16



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There was a more obvious decline in median cumulative deployed time by YCS 9, 12, and 16 over the period. By YCS 9, the median cumulative deployed time fell from about 15 months for the early 1980 cohorts to about 10 months for the cohorts of the early 2000s. The decrease in median cumulative deployed time by YCS 6 shown in the previous slide explains the decrease by YCS 9 for the accession cohorts in the 1980s. The graph above, however, shows an additional 2-month decrease in median cumulative deployed time by YCS 9 for the accession cohorts from the early 1990s to the early 2000s.

Moreover, in general, this decline is not reversed when we look at the median deployed times by YCS 12 and YCS 16. It appears that the 5-month loss in cumulative deployed time incurred by YCS 9 for the accession cohorts of 1980 through the late 1990s was not made up in subsequent sea tours.

Some possible reasons for the decrease in SWO cumulative deployed time

- Goldwater-Nichols Act (GNA)
- Drawdown in the early 1990s
- Changes in retention



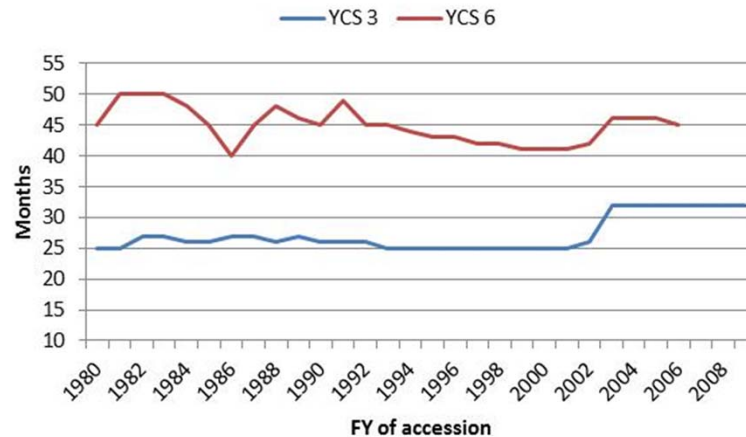
Passage of the GNA in 1986 increased the demand for joint, international, and interagency tours. Since the officer career length and promotion timing remained the same, officers had to find ways to complete these new tours as well as the traditional operational milestones. This may have led to shortening some tours.

The drawdown in the 1990s could also have slowed the accumulation of experience at sea. During a drawdown, billets can be cut quickly, but the services usually cannot decrease endstrength quite so fast. One result is that the manpower and personnel system may have more bodies than billets during the drawdown. One way that the services can manage the excess endstrength while allowing due-course officers to reach career milestones is to shorten tour lengths.

The decrease in the median cumulative deployed time to YCS 6 for the accession cohorts from the mid-1980s to about 1990 is consistent with the drawdown of the early to mid-1990s. The additional decrease in median cumulative deployed time at YCS 9, 12, and 16 for these same accession cohorts and subsequent ones is consistent with the challenges of managing the career paths brought about by the GNA.

Sufficiently large changes in retention rates for SWOs could also affect tour lengths. For example, if retention rates increase enough, tour lengths may need to be shortened. There has been an upward trend in SWO retention rates over the last 25 years (with many fluctuations around the trend line). If the number of SWO sea duty billets grew relatively more slowly than the increase in retention, this would be consistent with a decrease in median cumulative deployed time.

SWO median cumulative sea duty time by YCS

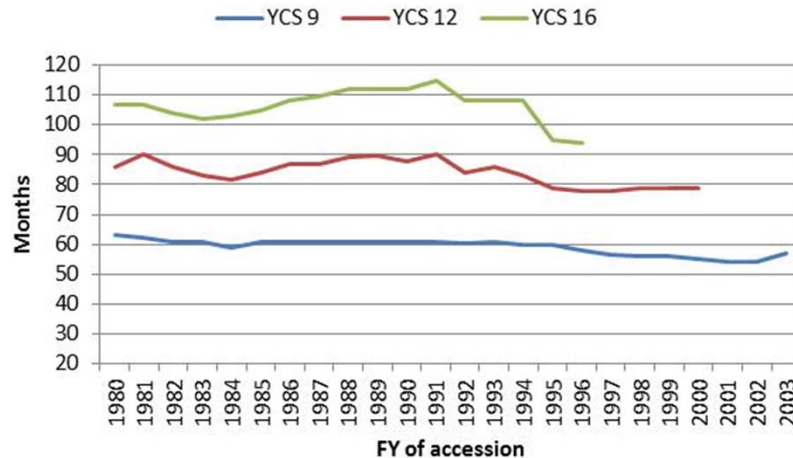


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Because we found a decrease in median cumulative deployed time for accession cohorts over the time period, we were interested to know if this was mirrored by a decrease in cumulative sea duty time. We find that median cumulative sea duty time by YCS 3 did not vary at all over time until the FY 2002 accession cohort. Then, it jumped from 25 months to 32 months—almost certainly as the result of a policy change. This appears to have had little to no effect on median cumulative deployed time.

By YCS 6, there is variation over time in median cumulative sea duty time, but it has no apparent pattern. For the accession cohorts in the mid-1980s (specifically, the FY 1984–1987 cohorts), there is a decrease in median cumulative sea duty time of roughly 20 percent, from about 50 months to 40 months. The median cumulative sea duty time rebounded quickly for the FY 1988 cohort, only to start another longer, slower decline for the FY 1993–2002 accession cohorts of about 11 percent (from 45 months to 40 months). It has rebounded again to 45 months for the most recent observable cohorts at YCS 6. There appears to be little relationship between median cumulative sea duty time and deployed time by YCS 6 for these cohorts.

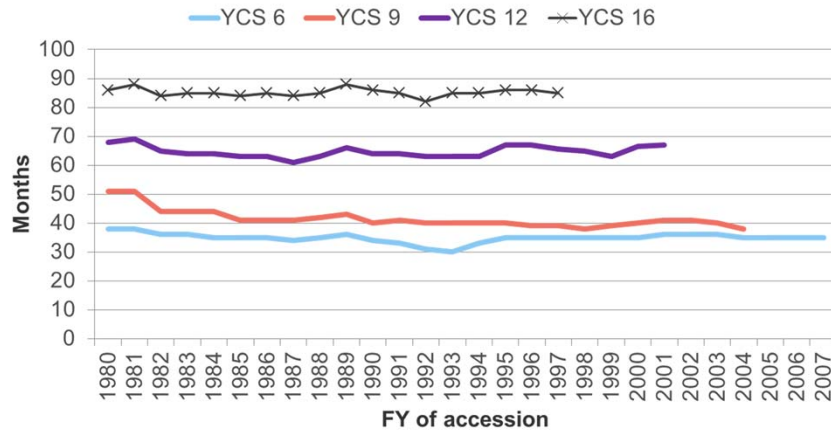
SWO median cumulative sea duty time by YCS (cont.).



The median cumulative sea duty time by YCS 9 has been decreasing since the FY 1996 cohort, while the decreases by YCS 12 and 16 started with the FY 1991 cohort. At YCS 12 and 16, the decreases were about 14 percent (110 months to 95 months) and 11 percent (90 months to 80 months), respectively. These only roughly correspond to the decreases in median cumulative deployed time, so, while both median cumulative sea duty and median cumulative deployed time has fallen for more recent cohorts, it is not clear that the decreases are driven by the same things. Again, however, these patterns are somewhat consistent with the drawdown, a delayed response to the GNA, and a general upward trend in retention.

We again caution that, just because we observe a decrease in median cumulative sea duty over time, this does not automatically mean that there were adverse consequences to readiness. More research needs to be done to explore that possibility.

Aviation median cumulative sea duty time by YCS



This slide shows the median cumulative sea duty time for aviators by various YCS milestones. With the exception of a decrease in the median time for cohorts in the early 1980s by YCS 6, 9 and 12, there has been little variation over time. We were unable to do the same calculation for median cumulative deployed time because it is very difficult to track when certain squadrons were deployed over the time period.

The generally decreasing pattern of median cumulative sea duty and deployed times for conventional SWOs was somewhat consistent with the idea that the early 1990s drawdown, the passage of GNA, and an upward trend in retention may have shortened sea duty/deployed times. In contrast, we find limited evidence of this for aviators.

Takeaways from experience accumulation for individual officers

- There appears to be some decline in median cumulative deployed time and median cumulative sea duty time for non-first-sea-tour conventional SWOs since the drawdown of the early 1990s
- Median cumulative sea duty time for aviators appears stable over time



To summarize, we see an apparent decrease in median cumulative deployed time and sea duty time for the conventional SWO accession cohorts of 1980 to the early 2000s. Some of the decrease coincides with the drawdown in the early 1990s, during which the Navy may have been more successful in cutting billets than personnel. There have been decreases since then, however, so the drawdown is not likely to be the only explanation. It may also be that, since the passage of the GNA in 1986, officer careers had to be managed with slightly less time at sea and more time in joint and other billets ashore. In addition, a general upward trend in SWO retention may also have led to a decreasing median cumulative deployed time and sea duty time.

We do not find the same pattern for aviators, whose cumulative sea duty time fell modestly for the accession cohorts in the 1980s but has since been relatively stable.

Note that a decrease in median cumulative sea duty time or in median cumulative deployed time does not necessarily mean that readiness has been negatively affected. A more thorough examination would be necessary to understand that relationship.

Conclusions

- Double-pump deployments do not appear to have affected officer retention
- Locking down officer crews will increase average tenure, but
 - Benefits are not clear
 - Costs include potentially limiting the generalist SWO model and challenges for community management
- Individual officer (sea) experience accumulation
 - Has declined for conventional SWOs
 - Has remained stable for aviators



We do not have any evidence to date that the double-pump CSG deployments that occurred from 2009 to mid-2012 adversely affected junior conventional SWO or aviator retention. Note, however, that for conventional SWOs we were unable to make separate estimates of the effect for officers who experienced both deployments of a double-pump CSG and for those who experienced only one deployment of the double-pump. Instead, we can say that retention for junior conventional SWOs who experienced one of the two double-pump CSG deployments did not appear to be adversely affected.

We also found that a CSG officer crew lockdown for part of the O-FRP cycle (i.e., the 20-month period that encompasses the training periods and the deployment) would increase average crew tenure by about 33 percent—from 9.4 to 12.5 months—at the peak tenure level in the steady state (i.e., at the end of the deployment). Crew lockdowns over part of the cycle also lower average crew tenure by about 25 percent—from 9.4 to 7.6 months—at the lowest tenure level (i.e., at the end of the maintenance phase).

The question is whether the increase in average crew experience yields readiness benefits that outweigh the potential costs to changing officer career management and the generalist SWO development approach to accommodate the lockdown. In this study, using a very small sample, we found little evidence that median officer crew tenure was correlated with certain CSG performance metrics.

We also found that the median cumulative deployed time and sea duty experience for conventional SWOs has declined in the past 25 years. It is possible that the GNA, the drawdown in the early 1990s, and a general upward trend in SWO retention affected the accumulation of deployed time and time on sea duty for SWOs. We do not find a decline in median cumulative sea duty time for aviators. We also do not yet know if the decrease has had any effect on readiness.

Recommendations

- To understand the effects of changes in the FRP cycle and crew rotation patterns, we must improve our understanding of the relationships between crew tenure, individual officer experience accumulation, and readiness
- Update the (1980s) modeling of material readiness as a function of many variables that could affect it, including
 - Officer tenure in UIC
 - Overall officer experience
 - Enlisted crew characteristics
 - Ship characteristics
- Consider other avenues to model tactical readiness as a function of these same variables



We make one general and two specific recommendations. In general, as the Navy explores various options for the FRP cycle to enhance forward presence while maintaining appropriate readiness levels, it must continue to examine the relationships between crew tenure, individual officer (and enlisted) experience levels, and readiness.

Specifically, our knowledge about the relationship between officer tenure on the ship (or CSG) and readiness (as measured by material readiness) is dated. Ship manning has changed substantially since the 1980s, but we have not updated our models of crew experience/readiness. Similarly, our understanding of the relationship between individual officer experience accumulation and readiness is both limited and dated. In addition, to our knowledge, before this study, there has been no estimation of the relationship between average officer crew tenure and readiness/performance outcomes. All of these relationships should be estimated using recent data.

In past studies, enlisted crew characteristics had a substantially larger effect on readiness than officer crew characteristics did. Going forward, we should examine the effect of characteristics of the whole crew on readiness, including the combined effects of officer and enlisted tenure.

These proposed analyses depend on appropriate measures of readiness or performance. Past studies focused on material readiness, which is critical to mission success; however, tactical readiness is just as critical and may be the bigger concern with regard to crew rotation policies. As a result, we need to explore all available data on tactical readiness to be able to examine its relationship to crew characteristics.

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